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On pointe
Skyline Dance Studio hosted their third annual recital at the Northern Lights Performing Arts Pavilion, where dancers highlighted their hard work over the course of the season. The dancers performed four shows over the course of the weekend. /ADAM FRISK

Testing the Waters slated to begin in Haliburton County

JAMES MATTHEWS
Journalist

Collecting lake health data now can contribute to future safe water quality.

The U-Links Centre for Community-based Research has been keeping an eye for a few years on the water quality in Haliburton County's lakes. Work is about to make waves for the 2025 season and county council got an overview of what the season is likely to entail.

Andrew Gordon, the director at U-Links, said research projects the organization has helped make possible over the years with groups, students, and universities and colleges has contributed to the county being a special place.

"The collective nature of those projects has brought more vitality and made Haliburton County a better place to live, work, and breathe," he said.

The various local lake associations approached U-Links with so much water quality data and looked for feedback in what to do with all of it.

Water quality is crucial to an area in which property values, tourism dollars, recreational opportunities, and its economic future depends upon the integrity of its 600 lakes and other waterways.

No small measure of safe water's importance is the about two billion cubic metres of water supplied to local municipalities.

"A well-tuned water quality testing program is going to be one way you're going to be able to do this in perpetuity," Gordon said.

Some of the things that affects water quality and general lake health is septic systems, shoreline vegetation removal, microplastics, and the introduction of invasive species. Some watercraft use contributes to habitat destruction and shoreline erosion.

"All of these problems are understood and collectively, working together across all political stripes, we will be able to deal with them," he said.

Something that's become regrettably common has been an increase in blue-green algae blooms.

"These are very nasty, toxic things that can actually kill people," Gordon said. "And we have seen in Haliburton County over the last eight to 10 years a serious increase in them."

He said the Testing the Waters Program began in 2022 with 10 lake associations and has since grown to include 25 associations across 39 lakes at 61 sites. Those are the region's largest, most utilized lakes.

The sites include biological monitoring at some, chemical and physical water quality monitoring at others, and a combination of those two tests at a third clutch of sites.

"Most of our lakes that we've been sampling now are at the five-year point so we're going to be able to start to put together a county-wide picture on the health of lakes," he said.

Jim Prince, the co-chairperson at U-Links and chairperson at Woodlands and Waterways EcoWatch, said data from a number of testing programs and groups has also been collected and will be incorporated into a picture of health.

The Testing the Waters Program has so far conducted more than 6,600 physical water quality measurements and 2,900 water chemistry samples over 1,300 volunteer hours by more than 150 volunteers.

see BLUE-GREEN page 13

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Haliburton County: a hidden gem wedding destination

THOMAS SMITH

Journalist

Wedding bells are in the air.

According to Bride.com, June is the third most popular wedding month, straddling behind October and September. With the flourishing of spring and lack of scorching heat of the summer, June can be considered a hidden gem month for weddings in the county.

Kayla Gardiner, Bonnie View's in-house wedding planner, is a professional in her field, with decades of experience under her belt when it comes to coordinating the big day.

Clients that book the Bonnie View Inn for weddings are a combination of clients that are local to the area, from around Toronto, and from out of province. The majority of clients come from within a three hour radius including places such as Oshawa, Peterborough, Barrie, and Ottawa. Around half of the clients that book the Bonnie View for their wedding have some sort of connection to the county, says Gardiner. That special connection may stem from attending a camp here as a kid, having a family cottage, or from renting a seasonal property. The Bonnie View Inn does not allow for weddings in July and August, when they become a full on summer resort. Outside of the summer months, they offer full packages for couples looking to book for their wedding. Their all inclusive offerings cover the reception, accommodation, ceremony, food, drinks, tables, rentals.

Gardiner says that the Bonnie View Inn is regularly chosen for its convenience. Throughout the year, when guests check in, they are given a map of the county for exploring off-resort. The most common interests for people leaving the property is for recreational activities like hiking and paddling.

"We are starting earlier and ending earlier," said Gardiner. Rentals of the property and guest numbers are predicted to double this year, compared to last. The inn requires a minimum of 90 guests to accommodate a wedding booking. With June being the only summer-like month that the accomodation offers for weddings, the weekends fill up well in advance.

After regularly attending wedding planner shows - a task that gives her a taste of the trends in the industry - Gardiner has noted that clients are drawn to Haliburton County for its cozy vibes and access to lakefront properties. In Muskoka, weddings are most commonly on client's private, luxurious properties. Haliburton is a niche wedding destination, with a more laid-back atmosphere. It is presumed that the county does not have the facilities for weddings that are looking for grandiose ballrooms, rather, clients are drawn to inns and resorts for the backyard-style day.

Another venue that is available to be booked for your wedding is the Bethel Church at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre (MHCC). One wedding is scheduled to take place there in August. Shannon Kelly, director of cultural services says that it is the first wedding to be booked at the Cultural Centre since she started working there in 2022.

"The Museum Church offers a unique and intimate setting for small weddings. Any opportunity to bring visitors to our site, especially visitors who have never been here before, is a plus for us," said Kelly. "Once people have visited the MHCC once, and they see the diversity of programs that we offer, they tend to return."

Since 2023, the township of Minden Hills has issued over 50 marriage licenses for interested couples. However, these numbers do not mean that the couple had their wedding in the county. There is no way to examine marriage licenses to calculate the number of weddings that take place in the county.

With wedding sizes ranging from 50 to 100 guests, the economic impact of weddings in Haliburton County is something that cannot be ignored for businesses in the region. A quick Google search will confirm that there were 70,547 weddings in 2022, with numbers steadily increasing since the global COVID-19 pandemic. With a wedding costing an average of $28,470, weddings seem like an unsung economical injector within the county, as interest continues to climb.

And weddings are a multi-facted industry. While Bonnie View is able to offer a one-stop-shop for the big day, Gardiner shared that they often partner with local breweries to offer beers and spirits for attendees.

A new pop-up in town, the Thirsty Hitch Bar, is a bar on wheels, set up to travel the county and beyond, offering "a bar where you are".

Ashley McAllister started the bar when she found a gap while planning her own local wedding. "There are so many parts to wedding planning," she said. "So we wanted to make things easier for everyone, and for a community that's so spread out, having a mobile trailer is a game changer." McAllister noted that with the ongoing tariffs disputes with the United States, many couples are leaning towards choosing local whenever possible. "We're lucky we have so many options to choose from in Haliburton County," she said, referencing the venues, the accommodations, and the services available. "There really is something for everyone."

Listening and learning

Trillium Lakelands District School Board hosted their third annual TLDSB Pow Wow and Drum Social to kick start National Indigenous History Month on June 5 at the high school. The event was organized by the Indigenous Student Success Team, alongside student leaders from IE Weldon's NBE classes, voluntary self-identified Indigenous students, and other students who have expressed interest in learning more about Indigenous culture.

Attendees were guided through various teachable moments from Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee perspectives to increase understanding and engagement with Indigenous culture, traditions, protocols, and peoples, strengthening community relationships and breaking down barriers or misconceptions about pow wows and drum socials. /Emily Stonehouse staff

Red Hawks leap to success at OFSAA track and field

Submitted by Karen Gervais

Five Red Hawk athletes travelled to the Toronto Track and Field Centre to compete at the OFSAA Track and Field championships last Thursday, Friday, Saturday and vie for top OFSAA spots among the best athletes in Ontario. OFSAA competition includes the top four athletes from each of the six regions in Ontario.

Addyson Parish continued to assert her position as one of the best jumpers in Ontario, climbing the podium once again by earning a silver medal in Junior Girls Triple Jump. Parish didn't let faulting her first jump shake her cool, and nailed her second jump with a leap of 11.34m. Parish showed her consistency, following this up with an 11.27m and 11.18m. Parish has been struggling with a foot injury since the start of the season and chose to pass on her fifth jump.

Parish also finished 10th in Junior Girls Long Jump the day before, bettering her position from last year despite jumping below her Personal Best with a leap of 5.04m.

Saturday morning eventers represented with determination and integrity but despite their best efforts, did not achieve the OFSAA performances they were hoping for, also struggling to bring their best. Luke Gruppe threw 32.15m in Novice Boys Discus to place 20th, well below his qualifying throw of 38.17m from the previous week. Cheyenne Degeer finished 18th in the 400m Hurdles, also running slower than her time of the previous week as did Annika Gervais who ran hard in the 800m, but just couldn't find the legs on that day. As all meets can't result in Personal Bests, the athletes were able to make peace with their results and celebrate their accomplishments of the season, topping off their experience by getting to meet Andre DeGrasse, who shook hands and autographed items for eager OFSAA athletes.

The Hawks ended on a high note though as Fynn Gooley took his turn in the pits in the Junior Boys Long Jump. Gooley started out strong, being the first jumper to push the mark over six meters. With a solid jump on the sheet, Gooley continued to push and jump consistently, keeping his composure on the big stage to make top eight, and then moving into seventh on his last jump with a personal best of 6.27m for the season.

Parish takes the podium for Junior Girls Triple Jump.

Fynn Gooley gets his bib pinned on by teammate Evan Backus for good luck. / submitted

The Red Hawk athletes were grateful for the support of their teammates and community members who drove down to Toronto to cheer them on in true Haliburton community spirit.

County development charge study exceeds budget

JAMES MATTHEWS

Journalist

Staff turnover and an expired council term will send Haliburton County back to initial steps in its Development Charge Background Study in 2026.

County council heard during its May 28 meeting a staff recommendation that preliminary information session that occurred in 2022 with senior staff and the council of the day be held again due to council and staff turnover.

In July 2022, the previous council awarded the Development Charge (DC) Background Study and its accompanying bylaws for the county and all four lower tier municipalities to Watson & Associates.

Elizabeth Purcell, the County's planning director, said it was found that the 2015 growth projections available for the county were not accurate enough to sufficiently calculate proposed DC rates.

So Watson & Associates undertook a separate project for the County and created a new comprehensive growth strategy document which council recently endorsed.

The work for both the completed growth strategy and the DC Background Study have resulted in budget overages due to a variety of factors, she said

The two projects are a combined $25,000 over budget, she said.

Watson & Associates will honour the 2022 hourly rates established in the original quote.

"However, staff do anticipate some additional cost should the DC project move forward," Purcell said.

Unanticipated meetings were required for the DC Background Study, including an additional information session with the council from the previous term. The growth strategy also experienced budget overages that have been attributed to staffing changes at the County level and the need to pivot from a medium growth scenario strategy to a low growth scenario strategy.

According to a report to County council, that's to better incorporate a variety of contextual factors that would impact growth potential across the county.

Purcell said there are a variety of options for council to consider with respect to moving the project forward.

"They do all have merits to them," Purcell said of the options.

Staff recommends the project proceed as planned and previously approved. An additional $30,000, plus taxes, will be required in the 2026 budget. During the 2026 budget process, a more refined financial commitment will be presented in consultation with Watson & Associates that isn't expected to exceed estimates.

Another option was to proceed with the County's DC bylaw rather than all five separate bylaws. The cost savings would result in the project remaining on-budget, with no additional funds required in 2026.

Proceeding with this option will not produce DC bylaws for the four municipalities. But the largest generator and beneficiary of DC revenues will be the municipalities because they provide water, sewer, roads, and community services.

Services and infrastructure available for DC revenue benefits at the County level are limited to roads.

A third option outlined by staff was a cost-sharing agreement with all the four lower tier municipalities and each municipality will fund the creation of their own bylaw so the project will remain on budget for the county.

It had previously been agreed upon that the County would fund the DC bylaw initiative in its entirety, including the development of all five bylaws and the undertaking of five public meetings required for each municipality and the county.

Of course, there was also the choice to not continue with the DC project and place the unused money in the Planning Reserve Fund.

"The province is talking about doing away with development charges," said Councillor Murray Fearrey, Dysart's mayor. "And here we are going in the wrong direction. Again."

Gary Dyke, the county's CAO, said Bill 5 that was recently passed at Queen's Park influences development charges, but the province isn't considering ending DCs.

"At the same time, we desperately need these (DCs) if we are going to have expansion at all," said Coun. Bob Carter, the mayor at Minden Hills. "We need development charges. There's people who are coming to us with projects. There's no way that the existing tax base can absorb this."

Fearrey said he's spoken with developers who have told him they wouldn't spend a cent in Haliburton County if they had to pay DCs like they do in urban southern Ontario cities.

Purcell said there is the option for a municipality to opt out of the DC setup. But a lot of money will be left uncollected if only the county pursues DCs.

"The greatest beneficiary is the local municipality when it comes to development charges," she said.

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Saturday June 14th 2025

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Schedule of Events

9 am: Fairgrounds open
9 am: Light Horse Show (all day)
9 am: Vendors, artisans, demonstrations
9 am -11 pm: Re/Max Balloon Rides Weather Permitting
11pm - 4 pm: Zoo to You
3 pm: Auction
3:30 pm: Horse Pull
All Day: Cattle Show
All Day: Kids Pony Rides
All Day: CURLING CLUB: exhibits, demonstrations, woodworking and much more.

All times are subject to change

Things to See
THROUGHOUT THE DAY

~ OPP, Minden Fire Department, EMS and Smokey the Bear
~ Kawartha Dairy Ice Cream
~ Beer Tent by Mulligans
~ 50/50 Draw (Only 2100 tickets sold)
~ Haliburton Rotary Club Draw SUV Tickets Available
~ And much more

Main Stage Entertainment

LIVE MUSIC
Mulligans Beer Tent

1 pm - 5 pm:
Beverly Mahood & Jim Jacobs
with Doug Johnson (Steel), Rick Loucks (Bass)
Wayne Ferguson (Fiddle),
Fred Lewis & Charlie Agro

Admission

Adults: $10
Kids Ages 6 - 12: $5
5 & under: No Charge
All kids events included in admission

Should I Bring Anything?

• Lawn chair(s) • Rain Jacket/Gear (Just in case)
• Sunscreen • Hat • Bug Spray • Comfortable Footwear
• Although some vendors and artisans may have debit transactions available - it would be a good idea to bring cash as well.

Camping

$25 per trailer - Plus fair admission(s)

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Arrive: Thursday, June 12 - 8:30 am
Depart: Sunday, June 15 - 11 am

Kids & Youth EVENTS

~ Bouncy Castles
~ Pockets the Clown (with face painting
~ Dalrymple Rabbitry
~ Ministry of Natural Resources & SMOKEY the BEAR
~ Kids Games
~ Turtle Guardians
~ Farmers Association Farm Animals

www.haliburtoncountyfair.ca

Haliburton County Fair brings light horse show event

THOMAS SMITH
Journalist

Horses pictured during the Haliburton County Fair horse pull competition during a past fair. Originally developed as an opportunity for the community to connect with local agricultural providers, the fair has evolved into a county-wide experience that people of all ages can attend and enjoy. /FILE

The Haliburton County Fair is approaching fast.

After a year of planning for the event, the Minden Agricultural Society is hoping for a great turnout to this year's fair.

This year's fair will be held at the Minden Fairgrounds on Saturday, June 14. For the first time in many years, the Haliburton County Fair will be hosting a light horse show. This horse show will include English events and barrel racing.

This year will be the 162nd iteration of the Haliburton County Fair. Initially introduced to exchange farming knowledge, strengthen the community, and celebrate the harvest, the fair has grown to a huge tourist attraction that celebrates the enduring agricultural spirit of the Haliburton Highlands.

The Haliburton County Farmers Association will be in attendance at the fair with an information booth, games, and some animals for people to pet. Unlike last year, there will not be a sheep sheering event.

"It represents hope," said Minna Schleiffenbaum, Haliburton County Farmers Association President. "I like to see the Haliburton County Fair bring so much positivity and showcase the people residing in the county."

With visitors coming from all around, Schleiffenbaum says that seeing families of all types and young children having an interest in agriculture is a rewarding feeling.

"To see an interest in agriculture is heartwarming," said Schleiffenbaum. "It gives me hope towards the future of agriculture in Haliburton County."

At this year's fair, there will be something for everyone to do. From bouncy castles, to pony rides, to watching the horse pull, visiting the beer tent, or riding in the Remax hot air balloon, having fun is not hard at the fair. (The hot air balloon will be at the fair from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. and will run weather permitting.)

The Minden Agricultural Society remains strong with its small core group of members. In 2016, there were concerns for the fair to end. With changing its date and bringing interest to local schools, attendance and volunteers increased. This year, the agricultural society hopes that the newness of the horse show will draw even more interested spectators.

Cathy Fisher, Vice-President of the Minden Agricultural Society says that the planning for every county fair is a year-round process, with the society meeting monthly. To support planning for the fair, the society welcomes new volunteers to the society. The group strives to continuously analyze fresh, new ideas to make the fair better, year after year.

Fisher estimates that around 1,500 visitors came to the Haliburton County Fair in 2024. Unlike other county fairs with an excess of carnival rides and corporate promotions, the Minden Agricultural Society says that they have tried their best to reduce commercialization of the event and focus on the event as a celebration of agriculture in the county. Local sponsors are greatly appreciated.

For just $10 per adult, $5 for youth under 12 and free for children five and under, the Haliburton County Fair strives to keep its admission prices as affordable as possible while providing an entire day of entertainment for the entire family.

In addition to vendors such as Kawartha Dairy Ice Cream, the fair is ecstatic to host a variety of local artisans and business owners. While some may be able to take card payments, it is highly recommended to bring some cash to the fair.

The Minden Fire Department, OPP, EMS and Smokey the Bear will be in attendance to chat with kids, take pictures, and speak with visitors. Pockets the Clown will be available throughout the day to provide face painting for kids. Dalrymple Rabbitry will have a variety of rabbits in attendance for people to pet as well.

From 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. the fair will have a variety of concerts with performances from Beverley Mahood, Jim Jacobs, and Too Country.

Camping will also be available at the fairgrounds. A hydro connection is sparse at the campground and they are first come, first served. Camping is $25 per trailer and campers can arrive on Thursday, June 12 at 8:30 a.m. and leave the fairgrounds at 11 a.m. on Sunday June 15.

The Minden Agricultural Society is currently looking for both vendors and sponsors. Vending spaces can either be on the fairgrounds or inside the Minden Curling Club. Interested vendors and sponsors are asked to call Fisher at 705-754-5752 or email flaggirl1956@hotmail.com.

"I am so proud of our community," said Fisher. "For all the support they give for the county fair.

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Mud

AS WE watch the smoke drift into our backyards with wildfires ravaging the country, the Ontario Government passed Bill 5.

A contentious topic, which will make immediate changes to the Endangered Species Act, the Environmental Assessment Act, the Environmental Protection Act, the Mining Act, the Ontario Energy Board Act, the Ontario Heritage Act and the Species Conservation Act.

Environmental agencies, wildlife conservationists, and Indigenous groups are outraged.

We all should be.

Including the people of this community, who rely on the great outdoors and the natural wonder of our lakes and trees for our livelihood.

Editorial

Emily Stonehouse

Premier Doug Ford has made it blatantly clear that he does not prioritize the environment in any way, shape, or form. That's no surprise. But don't worry, he didn't even show up the day of the vote; too sheepish to pick one way or the other.

But we all know his thoughts. Sometimes actions speak louder than words.

This topic crossed my desk a few times. And I'm grateful for that. It meant that people care. People fought this one right to the top. People who believe in the rights of Indigenous groups. People who believe in the need for nature. People who want to see our future generations succeed.

Sometimes these bills get lost in the mud. While we see the topic loudly discussed on social media channels, the actual voting process happens in a place far beyond our quiet communities.

When I started writing for local newspapers, I was told that the editorials should reflect only what is happening in our towns; a topic directly pertinent to our local people.

As a result, the decisions made by those representing us afar were often overlooked. Once events traipsed past boundary lines, we stuck our head in the sand. The stories getting lost in the mud.

But I think we should start talking about it. Our MPP, Laurie Scott, the representative who leads our community, voted in favour of Bill 5. That means she's in favour of going against years of Indigenous partnerships. She doesn't prioritize our environment, our livelihood. She follows the lead of Doug Ford, and whatever puts cash in his pockets.

Let's start holding our own representatives accountable. I'm not sure we nail that at any level of government. The ones who seem the easiest to rant about are the ones in the highest positions of power, and while the Trump/Musk catfight seems to be dominating our screens these days, the representatives closest to us are actually the ones who have the greatest impact on our lives.

So call them out. Let's ask Laurie Scott why she chose Ford's side over the side of her constituents. Why she prioritized making money at the cost of our future. Why she didn't put us first. Why.

Politics used to be something that happened at tables far from our own. We weren't privy to the ins and outs of the debate. But times have changed. We have a role now. A presence that is valuable, and should be recognized.

Moving forward, as an editor, I will not shy away from showcasing the decisions our elected officials make: even if those votes happen beyond the boundary lines. We need to start caring about the decisions these select few - the ones we apparently voted for - make about our lives. About our world. About our future.

Otherwise, it'll all get muddy. It's time to pull our heads from the sand.

Online after death

THERE COMES a day when each of us will die. Even though we don't like thinking about it, there are many things we do to prepare for our inevitable worldly exit. That's why we write wills, name beneficiaries on our financial assets, and decide who gets our possessions after we are dead.

What happens to our online presence after we die is also something we need to think about. We all have a digital footprint made up of social media accounts, subscriptions, blogs, online shopping, streaming services, email, online banking, digital wallets, just to name a handful. Each of these, ideally, should be protected by a unique password and some form of multi-factor authentication (MFA). When we shuffle off this mortal coil, we leave our loved ones the equivalent of a filing cabinet with multiple drawers each locked with a different key.

Humans & Techonology

Erin Kernohan-Berning

So how do we get, and keep, our online affairs in order? There are a number of guides online that can help you through this process. Dying with Dignity Canada's guide, *Preparing a Digital Legacy,* provides some helpful checklists on creating and maintaining a list of online accounts and instructions on how to access them.

A password manager can be an ideal tool for this. Password managers are one of the most secure ways to store your account and login information. Depending on how you want to manage it, you can include a trusted person as an emergency contact, add them to your account as a shared user, or store your master password with your will and other important documents. These documents should be stored securely whether in a locked safe, desk drawer, or filing cabinet.

Creating a list of accounts and login information is the first step, but that list also needs to be maintained. On a periodic basis, closing out unused accounts and unsubscribing from their related emails will help keep that list manageable for both you and the person tasked with making sense of it later. Be sure to update any changed passwords, as well as updating payment information for paid accounts.

It's also important for your executor to be able to access your mobile phone for a period of time after your death. This is so they can access accounts that might rely on multi-factor authentication. Along with your master password and accounts list, your phone's passcode should also be included with your will. While some password managers also allow you to store MFA backup codes or even generate one-time passcodes, some services rely on codes sent by text or via push notification from an app. In those cases, having access to your phone and keeping the phone number active will allow your executor to have easier access to those accounts.

Some online accounts let you set up legacy contacts. Gmail has an inactive account manager that will allow a trusted contact to access your account after a defined period of inactivity. Facebook lets you assign a legacy contact to manage your account if you decide to memorialize it, or request to have your account removed. Many accounts, however, have no such option. Some companies like Microsoft require specific documentation around proof of death to transfer accounts but are also very difficult to contact for this purpose, making it that much more important to ensure an executor has access to your accounts after you die.

Another thing to consider, particularly with social media accounts and blogs, is whether you want that information to continue to be available online at all. Do you want that hot take from when you were younger to live online after you die? Leaving instructions for your executor as to what your wishes are with respect to deleting or maintaining your social media presence is important.

Dying with Dignity Canada advises appointing a digital executor who you know is comfortable dealing with technology. It may even be a good idea to appoint one person as an executor and another as a digital executor depending on their skillset. Either way, you want to be sure they are people you trust with your sensitive and personal information. If you are asked to be an executor for someone you know, be sure to ask what kind of arrangements have been made regarding online accounts.

Societally, many of us try not to think too much about death and dying. It's emotional, and not a time of life we generally look forward to. However, it's important to think of these things before we reach the stage where we're mourning or being mourned. Having these discussions with our loved ones can also help build trust. If we are clear about our wishes, and know our loved ones understand them, we can be assured that our digital legacies will be well taken care of.

points of view

Breakthroughs

Loon Tales

Steve Galea

WITH THE exception of Newton's third law of physics, I have always believed in science.

But, that law, which states, "For every action there is an equal an opposite reaction," seems totally wrong to me – and I'm pretty sure anyone who has ever walked into a telephone pole would agree.

We can't really blame Newton for this error though. Back in his day, there was no such thing as telephone poles. If there had been, he would have eventually walked into one like the rest of us. Then he would have observed that they don't react at all.

Anyway, aside from that one minor thing, I place a lot of trust in science. But never more so than now. That's because I recently read about a scientific study that suggests the regular consumption of berries, dark chocolate, tea, grapes, oranges, red wine and apples could extend a person's life.

It was not an inconsequential study either. The researchers looked at data gathered over 10 years from more than 120,000 people. It almost sound too good to be true, right?

Well, if you need more proof that this study is credible, here it is: they did not mention kale or tofurkey once.

Frankly, I'm ecstatic. I consume my fair share of all these things – although fair is a relative term when it comes to dark chocolate. So, if ingesting all these things is truly life-extending, I expect to live to somewhere around 164, and then die peacefully in my sleep, while skydiving.

To be clear, the researchers never suggested consuming these foods and drinks could extend you life that long. Then again, they've never seen how much chocolate I can eat.

Also, I am biased and perhaps overly optimistic. But aren't we all in our own ways? So, let's concede this: we all have our pet scientific belief.

For instance, there are people who truly believe that the world is flat. And it sounds quite silly until you visit them in Saskatchewan.

We also need to acknowledge that science is everchanging. There was a time when the scientific consensus was that the earth was the centre of the universe and everything else revolved around it. Now the evidence strongly suggests that the centre of the universe is my dog Rosie.

The truth is, we are constantly evolving and learning – except in the White House – and what is considered cutting edge science today might be easily disproven tomorrow – right after someone chokes on a berry.

Until then, wouldn't it be nice if this were true? Honestly, I think it would be wonderful to have a magic formula for longevity that we could enjoy and follow. Then we could all be around long enough to tell our great-great-great-great grandchildren about how, when we were their age, we routinely walked five miles through raging blizzards to attend school – and then 17 miles home because, back then, the sense of direction had not yet even been invented.

This is the main reason I am clinging to the faint hope that this study holds true. Also, I'm hoping to see the day when dark chocolate is covered on my medical plan.

This could be delightful news. The only thing that would make it better is if the scientists announced that those foods and drinks were also found to neutralize the harmful and cumulative effects of walking into telephone poles…

pic *of the* **past**

Lloyd Coneybeare standing in front of Coneybeare Motor 1970. The business was sold to Gord Bennet in August 1981. /FILE

What's that sound?

Our road Down

Sharon Lynch

TRACEY AND John had never been out of the city. They lived in a condo downtown. Everything they needed was within walking distance. Such was their answer when Monika asked them why they liked living where they did.

Monika hadn't spent time with her old friends for several years. As she put it, one day she turned around and realized how long it had been and that prompted her to invite them up for a weekend. Knowing the weather was unpredictable, they all crossed their fingers that it would be good timing for a visit. And the fates cooperated.

They had spent the afternoon digging up wild leeks. There was a hill not far from Monika's place, just off the highway, where the hill was green with the first showing of life once the snow had retreated. Using a screwdriver to carefully dig up what they wanted, the leek-gathering had been a new experience for the city dwellers. Tracey had wondered if the leeks were safe to eat. John had been less-than-enthusiastic about the black flies, though he had to admit it had been worth the effort. Cooked with mushrooms in a little butter, the small wild onions had been a big hit.

The three of them had enjoyed a supper of steak and veggies and were now sitting in the screened porch, giving their stomachs a bit of space before dessert. Every spring Monika blessed this special place. It was a respite from the black flies and mosquitoes, allowing her to enjoy the outside world in comfort and peace.

Every year as the snow melted, it filled a large pond at the back of her property, By mid-summer it was usually dried up but this time of year it was alive with life. Ducks sailed down onto its surface, breezes ruffled little waves and deer, the curse of Monika's gardens, came to drink.

As they sat looking out at the forest surrounding Monika's house, they chatted about old times and old friends. Tracey noted several people who had died which prompted a brief silence before the three launched into other topics. The state of the world was only briefly touched upon as they had agreed earlier to take a break from the terrible news.

Instead of current events and dead people, John suggested they look forward, to their hopes and plans for the next few years. Monika said she was planning to expand her garden, Tracey wanted to lose ten pounds so she could wear her favourite jeans again and John was hoping the stock market would improve.

Sitting in the screened porch offered much appreciated protection from the insects that were so persistent this time of year. Monika had painted the old wicker furniture a clean-looking white and combined with a woven rug on the pine floorboards, the porch had a comfortable homey feel. It was a far cry from the minimalist, off-white of the city condo's decor. Monika had stopped comparing her lifestyle with her city friends' a long time ago. She knew the fast-paced, crowded world of urban living was not for her.

Rhubarb pie topped with local ice-cream rounded out the meal nicely once they found room for more. Dishes done, they then returned to the porch for more conversation. The wind had died down and not a leaf stirred as the world waited for darkness to descend.

"What's that sound?" Tracey suddenly asked. John stopped talking and cocked his head. Up from the pond came a loud chorus of croaks and chirps.

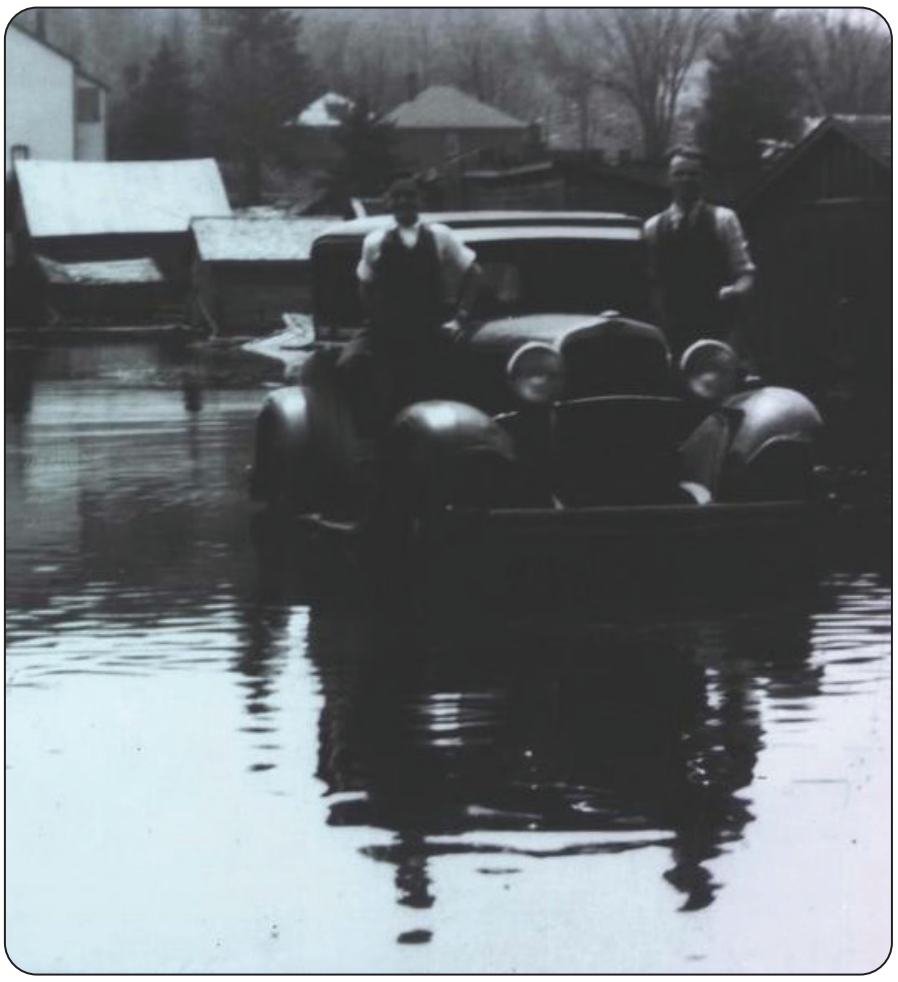
"It's the frogs, mostly peepers," said Monika. "Every spring they start up. And when the water's gone, so are they."

"What happens to them then?" John inquired.

"I don't know," she replied. "But the same thing happens every spring. I see a million tadpoles first and the ducks seem to find lots to eat but that doesn't stop the chorus of voices at night."

They sat quietly then, listening. The moon had risen and was watching from behind the old maple. Monika knew the frogs would continue all night and the night after that and the night after that. She wondered what she had ever done to deserve such a wonderful life.

Minden Memories



This May 1943 photo shows Ray Steele (right) and Bud Campbell standing on the running boards of a Dodge amid the floodwaters on St. Germaine Street. In the background, Kirkwood Hill leads up to the community hall - now the site of the county building - while the barn at the base belonged to the Kirkwood family. /Photo courtesy of the Minden Hills Cultural Centre

Celebrating Waste and Recycling Workers

The week of June 16 is Waste and Recycling Workers Week.

During this special week of celebration, we thank the people who work daily to keep our communities safe and clean! Join us in thanking your local waste staff and all those who work in the waste industry.

Haliburton County is made up of four local municipalities: Algonquin Highlands, Dysart et al, Highlands East, and Minden Hills. Each local municipality is responsible for operating its own waste management programs including recycling, disposal, and drop-off sites.

Between the four local municipalities, there are approximately 50 waste disposal site attendants, equipment operators, drivers, and managers, who are responsible for more than just customer service. They are also responsible for health and safety, site maintenance and operations, record keeping, and ensuring compliance with provincial regulations and local by-laws.

Recycling plays a vital part in protecting our environment, and it wouldn't be possible without the commitment of waste staff. They ensure that materials are managed properly and help ensure that materials like paper, plastic, glass, and metal are properly sorted and placed in the correct collection area.

Whether it's Waste and Recycling Workers Week celebrated annually or just an ordinary day, taking a moment to express gratitude makes a difference.

Submitted

Four Wings and a Prayer

The Minden Hills Cultural Centre, in collaboration with the Haliburton County Public Library, will be screening *Four Wings and a Prayer* (2007) at the Cultural Centre on Thursday, June 19, at 1 p.m.

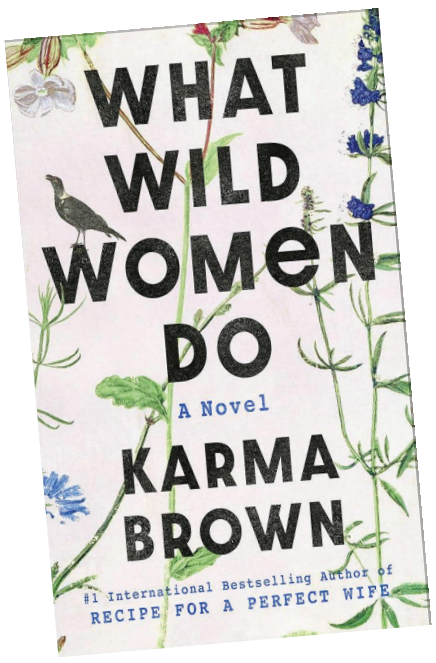
Directed by Nick de Pencier and based on the book by Sue Halpern*, Four Wings and a Prayer* is a stunning documentary that explores the mystery, beauty, and survival of one of the world's most remarkable insects – the Monarch butterfly. Despite weighing less than a paperclip, Monarchs make a 3,000-kilometre journey from Canada to remote mountain forests in Mexico, navigating storms, mountain ranges, and vast distances with awe-inspiring precision. The film blends science and wonder, capturing the enduring mystery of their migration and the urgency of protecting their fragile existence.

This documentary, along with daily crafts and activities, recognizes National Pollinator Week, celebrating the crucial role pollinators play in biodiversity and food security. The screening is free and open to all ages.

The Minden Hills Cultural Centre is located at 176 Bobcaygeon Road, Minden, Ontario. For more information, visit the Cultural Centre's social media calendar page: www.facebook.com/mindenculturalcentre.

Submitted

HCPL's Book of the Week



Aspiring screenwriter Rowan, struggling with stalled dreams and an uncertain future, visits a cabin in the Adirondacks with her fiancé. There, she uncovers the story of Eddie Calloway, a 1970s socialite who became a feminist crusader and mysteriously disappeared while running a women's camp. Through a forgotten handbook left behind in the camp's ruins, Rowan is drawn into Eddie's world filled with ambition, conflict, and a vision for female empowerment. As she unravels the truth about Eddie's fate, Rowan begins to find clarity in her own life, discovering the courage to pursue her passion and rewrite her future.

What Wild Women Do by Karma Brown is available to borrow from the Haliburton County Public Library.

Theft of pickup truck under investigation

Members of the Haliburton Highlands Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) are currently investigating a theft of a motor vehicle that occurred in the Municipality of Dysart et Al.

Sometime from June 1, 2025, and the morning of June 2, 2025, unknown suspect(s) stole a blue Ford pick-up truck that was parked at a business in the Industrial Park in Haliburton. Members of the City of Kawartha Lakes Detachment (OPP) were later dispatched at 6:11 a.m. on June 2, 2025, for a vehicle fire near Boyce Trail in the City of Kawartha Lakes. Kawartha Lakes Fire Department were on scene where the stolen vehicle was located, and the fire was extinguished. No suspect(s) were located with the vehicle and the matter is still under investigation. No charges have been laid at this time.

The Haliburton Highlands OPP is asking for the public's assistance with this on-going investigation and would ask that anyone with information to call their nearest OPP detachment at 1-888-310-1122. Should you wish to remain anonymous, you may call the Haliburton/Kawartha Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477). You can also submit information online at www.khcrimestoppers.com.

The Ontario Provincial Police is committed to public safety, delivering proactive and innovative policing in partnership with our communities.

Submitted

HHHS Foundation welcomes summer students

EMILY STONEHOUSE

Editor

It's an exciting time for the Haliburton Highlands Health Services (HHHS) Foundation, as they welcome two new students to join their roster of dedicated staff for the summer months. "This is our busy season," said Melanie Klodt Wong, the executive director of the foundation. "Having these two students here who really want to invest in the county, that will help us so much."

The students were hired as a part of the Canada Summer Jobs program, which combines organizational funding with governmental support to create jobs in a variety of fields. Generally, the programs are offered for a few weeks over the summer, but the Foundation made the decision to extend the contracts of the students for the majority of the summer.

Klodt Wong noted that with the upcoming Radiothon, as well as the annual Matt Duchene Charity Golf Classic, the summer is peak time for raising funds that go into the wide variety of services and equipment used at the Haliburton Hospital.

Through their recent digital imaging campaign, the Foundation was able to successfully purchase a CT scanner and a mammography machine, allowing residents to receive potentially life-saving imaging without having to leave the county.

It was these swift and tangible actions that led both Macy Thompson and Lily Vangeel to the Foundation in the first place. "I've always heard about it through social media and through the local newspapers," said Thompson. "It has such a big impact on the community, and to be able to use these services locally, there's a lot of value to that."

Macy Thompson and Lily Vanjeel have been brought on for the busy summer season, in an effort for the HHHS Foundation to meet some of their upcoming targets. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

Thompson and Vangeel started with the Foundation the first week of June, and will be working alongside the fundraising team members until the end of August. Vangeel has spent the majority of her summers cottaging in the Haliburton Highlands. So when an opportunity came up to start to give back, she jumped at the chance. "To be able to have the resources you or someone you know may need right here in your own community is really amazing," she said, noting the growth is equipment that HHHS has been able to attain based on fundraising through the Foundation.

The two students have differing backgrounds, with Thompson focusing on office administration from Georgian College, and Vangeel focusing on a biomedical science degree from the University of Guelph.

But the varied backgrounds allow the summer interns to bring different perspectives to the table. Thompson has a strong interest in fundraising, and is currently involved in a number of initiatives through Walkabout Farms. She hopes to continue in the field of community outreach, and working alongside sponsors and donors to hit a goal. "I'm really excited about building relationships with businesses," she said, noting her enthusiasm for the upcoming Moose FM Radiothon, which is slated this year for August 14 and 15. Last year, with matching donations, the two-day event raised $600,000.

Vangeel is more focused on the health sciences side of things. But working with the Foundation is giving her the chance to understand the intricacies of rural healthcare. "All the different departments are very correlated," she said. "It shows how integrated the Foundation is in all of that." Vangeel shared that she intends to work in healthcare in the future, but will continue volunteering behind the scenes whenever she can.

The Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation has their own social media pages, as well as a tab on the hhhs.ca website. For more information on Foundation news, as well as upcoming events, follow them on Facebook and Instagram.

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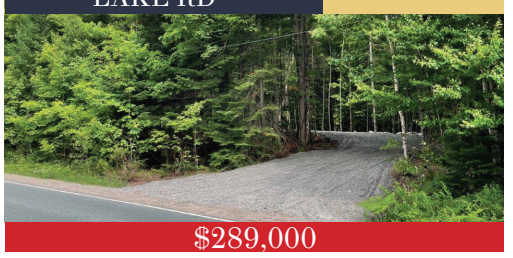

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Fancy dance

Dancers of all ages hit the stage this past weekend for four shows between Friday to Sunday, as a part of the annual year-end recital for Skyline Dance Studios. This is the third year the studio has showcased their performers, and the shows combined a mixture of recreational dancers as well as pre-competitive dancers, offering a variety of styles and skill-sets for the four sold-out shows. /ADAM FRISK

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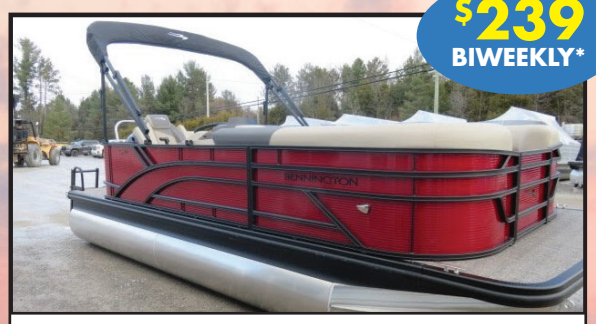
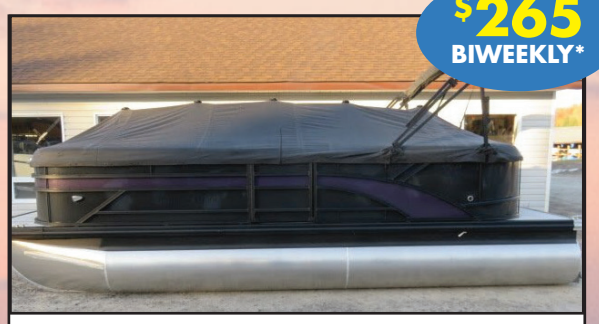


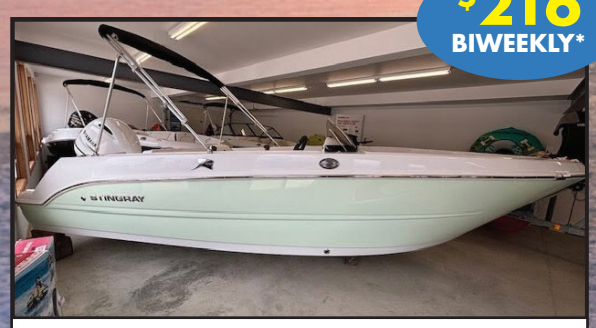
BENNINGTON 20 SL
Yamaha VF90, Blackout package, tilt steering, Windscreen, Diamond Pressed upgraded interior, Ski bar, Speedo

$265 BIWEEKLY*



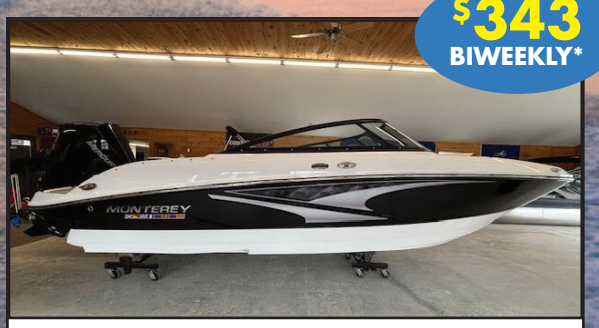
BENNINGTON 21 QUAD BENCH
Yamaha VF90, Windscreen , Tilt Steering, Diamond pressed upgraded interior, Ecomap Garmin, Ski bar

$216 BIWEEKLY*



STINGRAY 172 DC
Double Bubble Windscreens, Yamaha F90 in white, S/S Ski Bar, Bimini top, Cockpit and bow cover

$343 BIWEEKLY*



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New shop ready for summer ahead

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

Chrissy Moore has worn many hats.

She's been an accountant, a florist, a baker. She worked in long term care, and did design work for an automotive company.

But nothing has brought her greater joy than working in her own shop, selling women's clothes. "I'm a people person," she laughed. "I just love it."

This past week, Moore opened Younique You Clothing Boutique right in the heart of Haliburton, on Highland Street. Looking out onto Head Lake Park, Moore reflected on the journey that brought her to Haliburton. She ran a similar boutique in Midland, but when her boyfriend got a job in the Haliburton area, she decided to make the move with him.

"It turned out it was a blessing in disguise," she said, noting that her neighbourhood in Midland was on the cusp of some major construction. "And I like it here. I've had phenomenal feedback the past couple of days."

Moore says she aims to carry clothes "for every age and every stage," and tends to highlight more of a casual look. She works alongside buyers in the city, and pays close attention to the tricks and trends of the fashion world throughout the seasons.

She prides herself in carrying clothing that's from brands and names a little different from what is already available in the community, and has dedicated herself to understanding and appreciating the styles and brand names that folks tend to gravitate towards.

Her store is laid out with a minimalist design; grouping similar colours and styles, and maintaining large blocks of space so that browsers and buyers can roam comfortably and easily.

She has even included what she calls a "man cave", which is a comfy couch, a mini fridge, and a smart TV. She hopes this addition will allow shoppers to browse freely, without feeling rushed by their kids or companions.

While it's been a journey to arrive at her quaint and cozy shop overlooking the lake, Moore is thrilled with the space she has, and the promise of a busy summer ahead. She noted that the neighbouring businesses have been nothing short of supportive and welcoming, and she is eager to work alongside them throughout the year.

Younique You is located at 160 Highland Street in Haliburton.

Shop owner Chrissy Moore is excited to open her doors for the summer season, and welcome visitors and locals alike. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

Notice of Procedural By-Law Amendments

As per Policy No. 24 – Public Notice Policy, notice is hereby being provided that Dysart et al Council, at their meeting held on June 24, 2025, will be amending the Procedural By-Law to incorporate new mayoral duties and responsibilities in accordance with Part VI.1 of the Municipal Act, 2001 (Strong Mayors Powers).

Mallory Bishop, Municipal Clerk

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Free dance classes launch in Haliburton

EMILY STONEHOUSE

Editor

Looking for something a little different this summer? The team at Dysart recreation has just the thing: free dance classes for the month of June. "I wanted to apply for a ParticipACTION Community Move Challenge grant and was trying to think of something different that hasn't been offered before in Dysart," said Andrea Mueller, the manager of programs and events for the municipality. "The grant deadline was quick, so I did not try to poll the community for ideas, it was just something I thought might be of interest."

The classes are taught in Head Lake Park on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and are designed to showcase the rich heritage or India, Arabic traditions, Gujarati songs and dances, and Kiswahili African rhythms,

"The instructor is Yasmin Schoenke, a resident of Haliburton County. She has been dancing all her life and teaching dance for over 30 years," said Mueller. She noted that Schoenke also volunteers to teach dance at the Gardens of Haliburton, Extendicare, and the Bancroft Manor. "She is well received by the residents," said Mueller, "and we thought she would be a great fit for offering classes at Head Lake Park."

The first sessions of free dance classes at Head Lake Park took place this week, where community members of all ages were welcome to learn some new moves. Yasmin Schoenke showcased some traditional dances of Indian heritage, Arabic traditions and Gujarati songs and dances. /ADAM FRISK

And these classes are for anyone. Mueller noted that originally, the plan was to offer one class a week indoors at the auditorium of the arena, and one class outdoors. But that plan quickly changed, as the team realized that the outdoors are more accessible to everyone. "It also lends itself better to drop-ins and for people just passing by to join in," said Mueller. "We are hopeful that Extendicare and The Gardens of Haliburton may even bring some of their residents to the park for an outing."

The drop-in style of the class allows anyone interested in dance to check out the free classes. Mueller noted that there is no limit for age or ability. Folks can even participate from a chair, if needed. "We encourage all to come out and give it a try," she said. "Yasmin even brings props with her and outfits that participants can try on and use."

Mueller shared that the programming is part of a ParticipACTION Challenge, which revolves around the concept of getting people out and moving. During the first class of the season, Mueller noted the variety of people who came out to participate. "People can relate to music and may start moving without even realizing it," she said.

The free dance lessons are Tuesdays between June 3 to 24 at 11 a.m., and Thursdays, from June 5 to 27 at 7 p.m. All levels and ages are welcome at the Bandshell in Head Lake Park.

Blue-green algae on the rise across county

from page 1

Prince said that most water quality test results show excellent to good results when compared to Stocking Lake, which is their reference lake. Total phosphorus is steadily trending up while water clarity has dropped since the 1990s.

"That's an indication of nutrient loading in the lakes (and) definitely some climate change impacts," he said.

Waterfront property owners can properly manage their septic systems and work to maintain natural shorelines to sustain good water quality.

"The best part is every municipality in the county are doing work in those areas," he said.

Councillor Cecil Ryall, the deputy mayor of Highlands East, said the ongoing war against blue-green algae is everybody's concern.

"When the lakes go to sleep in the fall and wake up in the spring, does the algae die with it and then regrow?" he said. "The second part of that same question, is it cyclic in the sense that it grows to a certain point, dies off, and then it ends there?"

"I don't know about blooms under the ice," Gordon said. "But typically an indicator of whether there's going to be a bloom or not is the total phosphorus."

He said blooms tend to be related to weather conditions that are hot and calm with a stirred up lake bottom.

"Usually that's when the blooms will occur," he said, and added that the muck on the lake bottom is where the phosphorus is.

"I think what's really evident here is how much we don't know," said Coun. Bob Carter, the mayor of Minden Hills. "And the best way of trying to determine whether there is something that is important happening is to be able to track something consistently over a long period of time."

FREE Dance Classes

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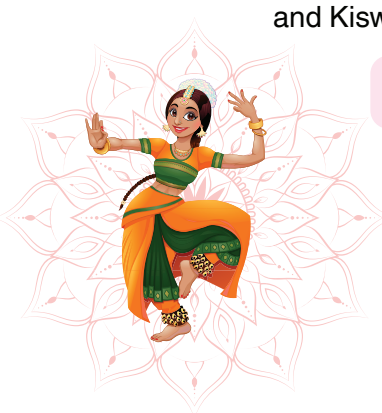

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MUNICIPALITY OF DYSART ET AL

DATE: June 24, 2025
TIME: Any person who wishes to address Council should contact the Planning Department for a delegation time.

LOCATION: Council Chambers, Municipal Office, 135 Maple Ave., Haliburton, Ontario.

APPLICATIONS: The Council of the Corporation of the United Townships of Dysart et al has, by resolution, declared the following parcels of land to be surplus.

Applicant: Cloutier, Rempel & Fiering
Location: 3225 & 3223 Trappers Trail Rd.
Part of the Original Road Allowance in Between Lots 15 & 16, Concession 3 in the Geographic Township of Dudley, defined as Parts 1-15 inclusive on a Preliminary Plan of Purvey prepared by Bishop Geyer Surveying Inc. dated December 19, 2023.

NOTICE IS GIVEN that the Council of the Corporation of the United Townships of Dysart et al proposes to consider and if deemed appropriate enact at its meeting as noted above, a by-law to close, stop-up and convey the portion of road allowance described above.

BEFORE PASSING the said by-law, the Council of the Corporation of the United Townships of Dysart et al shall at its meeting to be held as noted above, hear in person or by his counsel, solicitor or agent, any person who claims that his land will be affected by the said by-law.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION is available for review from the Planning Department at the Municipal Office during regular offices hours (8:30 am. to 4:30 pm. Monday to Friday).

DATED at the Township of Dysart, this 10th day of June 2025.

Lana McLeaming
Planning Administrative Clerk

A new life for workout gear

EMILY STONEHOUSE

Editor

For this chapter of her life, Bessie Sullivan has made a promise to look after herself. "That was my goal," she said, with a look of determination on her face.

And she's done that by turning to fitness. Pilates, strength training, regular walks. Sullivan has dedicated herself to feeling healthier, feeling stronger, and above all, just feeling better.

And she wants others to feel the same way. To do that, she knows you need the proper gear. That's why Sullivan is spearheading an initiative to offer a pre-loved workout gear sale at the Reform and Restore Wellness Hub on June 21. "It's an inexpensive way to update your wardrobe," said Sullivan. "It keeps things out of the landfill, it's environmentally responsible. I'm a huge resale fan."

Sullivan intends to have full racks of workout gear available for anyone interested, all sold in a consignment-like style. A small part of the proceeds will go to the seller, with the rest going towards the YWCA Haliburton Emergency Rural Safespace (HERS). "It's an organization that the Hub has supported in the past," said Sullivan. "And it really resonates with the people who use it."

For the clothing sale, Sullivan says it will be on a first come, first served basis. Early arrivals will have first dibs on the full slate of options, and all others will stay available at the Hub even after the sale ends, but supplies are not guaranteed. "If this works out, this is something I'd like to do annually," said Sullivan.

She noted that for women in particular, fluctuating weight can play a part in their interest and ability to continue to workout. That's why she wants to offer access to clothing whenever she can, for anyone interested,

The pre-loved workout gear sale will be held on June 21 at the Reform and Restore Wellness Hub, located at 135 Industrial Park Road. There will be tops, bottoms, and accessories available, and will run from 12 p.m. until 4 p.m.

Stanhope Museum Committee prepares for late–June opener

THOMAS SMITH

Journalist

The Stanhope Museum committee says that they are making great progress towards their re-opening at the end of June. Currently, the committee is hard at work rearranging exhibits, installing new ones and mounting a television provided from the township.

The Stanhope Museum sits in the former council chambers building from 1910. Renovated in 2007, the museum has recently closed off their windows to provide additional exhibit space. Blocking off the windows has provided a neutral backdrop and a window ledge for incoming exhibits.

Utilizing every square foot of space, the Stanhope Museum keeps visitors engaged around every corner. From snippets of "did you know" factoids in the exhibits, to a working log chute, and an artifact guessing cabinet, the museum committee keeps on top of the latest museum exhibit techniques to keep things fresh and interesting.

This year, the committee is bringing back the display showcasing the life and history of settler Thomas Mason and his family. Mason, an early pioneer to Stanhope, meticulously wrote facts and information of his day-to-day activities. These journals are now in the possession of Algonquin Highlands township. A treasure trove of historical content, the committee posts excerpts from Mason's journals regularly on their Facebook page. Everything from sending counting minnows he caught, to where he purchased groceries that day is detailed.

The museum also is home to the Algonquin Highlands Heritage Map Project. A gold mine of familial history, information about Haliburton County, and research data, the project has a table set up with binders of copies of papers such as census information and property boundaries, letting anyone look up a settler that lived in the area or a property within the township. The project even made its information publicly available through heritagemapsalgonquin.com allowing anyone from around the world to view information about Algonquin Highlands' heritage.

"Come and see who used to own your cottage property," joked Carol Moffatt, museum committee member.

Deep within the township offices in Stanhope hosts the vault of artifacts pertaining to AH's history. Without public access, the Stanhope Museum acts as the gateway for AH's rich historical information. With volunteers regularly posted at the museum to greet visitors and answer questions, often it is only through the volunteers where you can learn about the increase of UFO sightings at Boshkung Lake in the 1970s.

Along the east wall, an exhibit showcases the Martin brothers. Kenneth, Harry, and Gord Martin were brothers who collected military vehicles on their property on Buckslide Road. Both Harry and Gord were Veterans. Referred to as the 'Stanhope's Army,' visitors flocked from all over to visit the Martin brothers' collection of military vehicles including six trucks, four engine carriers, one halftruck and five Jeeps.

Around the corner, the working scale model of the log chute remains in working condition (while the real Hawk Lake Log Chute remains in desperate need of repair).

Around the corner in another windowsill, there is a display showcasing the Highway 35 committee. The committee was a group dedicated to bringing the scenic highway to the county. Today, Highway 35 remains a major artery for the lifeblood of visitors and residents alike.

On the left hand wall when you enter the museum, a plaque reminds you that we are settlers on this land. A map and history of the Williams Treaties First Nations can be seen.

Underneath, a shelf is filled with citron marmalade made by the museum committee.

Citron melons are grown outside the museum in a garden patch behind the building. Originally, the seeds for the citron melons came from the Mason family farm. Every year, the citron seeds are harvested, meaning that they continue to grow generation after generation of the same fruit that the Mason family grew. The citron melons are kept in cold storage until the spring to allow the fruits to build up pectin. The melons are then cooked down with lemon, orange, and ginger to create a marmalade that is all things tart, zesty and sweet. The jars of marmalade are sold in the museum with the funds going directly back into the museum itself.

Moffatt estimates that the Stanhope Museum receives around 400 visitors per year. Covered top to bottom in historical facts and artifacts from Algonquin Highlands, the Stanhope Museum remains a true testament to the rich history of the area, as well as the dedication of the museum committee's volunteers. Without the volunteers, there would likely be no museum that is free of charge to visit. The township is committed to sharing their heritage and sharing their stories.

The museum's nearly 40 volunteers are well deserving of the yearly luncheon that is provided to them.

"Everybody is friends," said Moffatt. "There are a lot of friendships that have developed through the years."

The Stanhope Museum will be opening the last weekend in June. The museum is open from Wednesday to Saturday, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the summer.

HALIBURTON HIGHLANDS HEALTH SERVICES FOUNDATION

NOTICE OF
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, June 26, 2025 – 10:00 am
HHHS Minden Auditorium
6 McPherson Street, Minden

Purpose of the Annual General Meeting: To receive the report of the Board of Directors, to receive the report of the Auditors & Financial Statements, the appointment of the Auditors, to conduct the election of the Directors and any other business as may properly come before the meeting.

The 29th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation will be held in-person. Only members will have the opportunity to vote. RSVP is preferred.

For further information and to RSVP,
please contact the HHHS Foundation at 705-457-1580 or foundation@hhhs.ca

Corner Gallery open to new views

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

Entering the Corner Gallery is an experience unto itself.

And that's the way it's supposed to be. The gallery is set up in a house.

An original home - built in the early 1920s - that has stood at the corner of Maple Avenue for longer than most residents can recall.

And it's fitting that the gallery calls an old house its home.

Because the way it weaves and winds, there's a personality to the place. It's not white-walled and clinical. It's got a rustic nature to it. A crystal chandelier hangs in the front entryway. Warm wood panels hug the doorways. In one room, there's an old safe tucked into the corner; clearly weighing so much that it cannot be moved, the floor varnish only painted to the edges of the room's staple furniture piece.

It's whimsical and eclectic and above all: accessible.

That's the goal for curator David Partridge, who has a background in art, but never felt like he had a place in it. That's why he wanted to create a space where everyone - in the arts world and far beyond - has a place at the table.

Partridge recently launched his second show in the space, titled *The View From Up Here* at the end of May. "I was hoping to make the show really open to interpretation," he said, glancing around the vivid pieces adorning the walls. "I wanted the theme to be loose, to see what people would come up with."

The show follows the highly popular exhibit *Wintershades*, which was on display over the colder season. While the pieces highlighted a wealth of local and visiting artists, and was met with great success, Partridge shared that he was happy to take it off the walls. "It felt good taking it down," he laughed. "I noticed people aren't as interested in winter paintings. You don't see them up as much in people's houses, and it was a long winter. Putting this show up felt so good."

The show isn't necessarily designed to be season-specific. As Partridge said, he gave the artists full reign to explore what *The View From Up Here* meant. "When I came up with the name, it was when political tension was high," he said, referencing the number of recent elections, both in Canada and the U.S. "I think artists were feeling unstable in the world,

> ***"I wanted the theme to be loose, to see what people would come up with ..."***
>
> — Corner Gallery Curator David Patridge

just like everyone else, and as a result, people were trying new things."

For some, the view looked like angles out the window, or the observation of their own bodies. For others, it is a tranquil forest, or the back of a companion's head. Open to interpretation, in every sense of the word.

With pottery, oil, pastel, and collage, the common theme amongst techniques seems to be 'mixed media', with Partridge sharing that many artists pushed the boundaries of their comfort zones to create a variety of pieces.

And Partridge knows all the artists personally. "I won't work with people I don't like," he chuckled. "And displaying the work of people I know, there's nothing better than that. That's the community I've been looking for."

And he's found it, here, at the Corner Gallery. He formed it himself, with what started as a simple open-door-policy coffee and chat quickly evolved into a weekly meeting of the minds, where artists of all forms gather and gab. Several of the current artists on display started out as early members of the Coffee Club.

And Coffee Club is one name. Partridge noted that it has a variety of names; coffee house, the Circle, art therapy.

Everyone who comes gets something different out of it, and the group is ever-changing; always open and welcoming more to join the weekly Thursday afternoon sessions. "When new people come, they generally become regulars," he said.

Because at its heart, the Corner Gallery isn't just an art gallery; you can feel that. It's a home, rich with stories and tales of days gone by. Memories and music, colour and chaos; the personality of the place.

Curator of the Corner Gallery David Partridge has worked diligently to create a space where artists feel safe to express themselves, and push the limits of their creativity. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

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"A good reporter asks more than just 'who?'"

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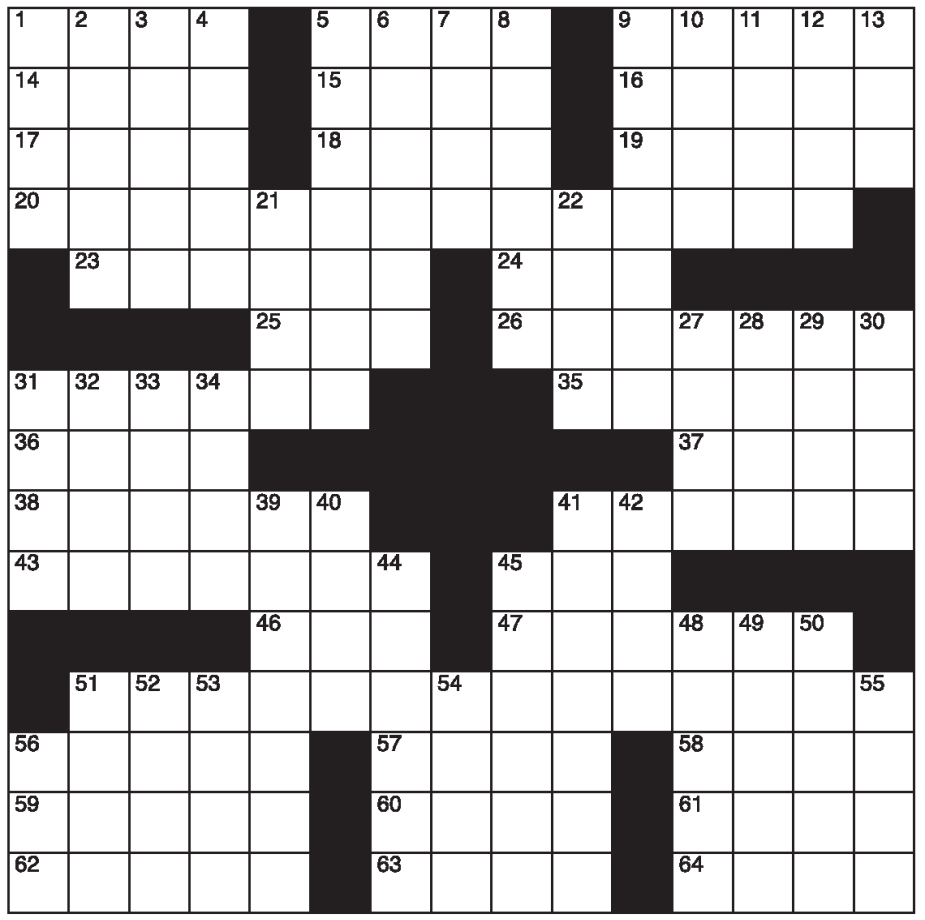
Level: Intermediate

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works:
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Answers on page 18



CLUES ACROSS
1. Undergarments for women
5. Periods of time
9. Dramatist Henrik
14. Any thick messy substance
15. Examination
16. Japanese city
17. Daze with a blow
18. With fireplace residue
19. Synthetic acrylic fabric fiber
20. Pittsburgh University
23. Scorched
24. Potato state (abbr.)
25. Anger
26. Suitable for use as food
31. To wipe out, obliterate
35. Used of unskilled work, esp. domestic
36. Loose earth, soil
37. Petrol container
38. Great (60's slang)
41. Conditions of balance
43. Foes
45. Sec. of Energy Steven
46. 6th day (abbr.)
47. Without qualification or exception
51. Sarah's title
56. Leisurely stroll
57. Austr. Army History Unit
58. Bowfin genus
59. S.A. mountain chain
60. ____ Scott Case 1857
61. Mound
62. Springfield, IL candy founder Martin
63. Frambesia
64. Reduced price event

CLUES DOWN
1. Pear variety
2. The Sator-_____ Square
3. Light purplish-blue
4. Plants of the genus Cassia
5. Shelf unit for ornaments
6. Live in
7. Arthur ___, Wimbledon champion
8. A thwarting and distressing obstruction
9. Cut off from others
10. Tree trunk outgrowth
11. Tower used for storing silage
12. Br. public boys school
13. ___ Ling mountain range
21. __ Clapton, musician
22. Mild yellow Dutch cheese
27. Peruvian province
28. Diagonal cut of cloth
29. A narrow path or road
30. Fraternal Order of ____
31. The boundary of a surface
32. Granular old snow
33. Rt. angle cleaving tool
34. Irreducible material
39. Oldest man-made rayon fiber
40. Affirmative! (slang)
41. Burial cloths
42. Surface layer of grass & roots
44. Not shaky
45. Kidney-shaped nut
48. Nursemaids in India
49. Alkali bee genus
50. Warble
51. A citizen of Denmark
52. Approves food
53. Golf ball supports
54. Pearl Harbor actress Rue
55. Coarse curly-leafed greens
56. Cancer detecting smear

Answers on page 18

She Kills Monsters slays at HHSS Pride event

THOMAS SMITH
Journalist

On Tuesday, June 3, students from Haliburton Highlands High School and the Virtual Learning Centre performed a dramatic reading of Qui Nguyen's *She Kills Monsters*. The performance was part of the high school's celebration of Pride Week, running annually from June 2 to June 6.

The play follows a young girl named Agnes, whose sister, Tilly, tragically passes away in a car accident after Agnes wishes for a more interesting life.

Agnes stumbles across Tilly's handwritten Dungeons and Dragons adventure module, filled with allusions to her own life. In order for Agnes to get to know her sister, she recruits Chuck, a dungeon master (and friend of Tilly) in exploring Tilly's imagined world. With the help of Tilly's real-world friends as adventuring party members, Agnes discovers that Tilly's modules reflect her thoughts and feelings of her life and that her sister had chosen to remain closeted at home and bullied at school.

The performance was attended by students from throughout the Trillium Lakelands District School Board, community members, and families of the cast.

While called a dramatic reading, the performance was far from sitting around reading the scripts from chairs. The students included props, costumes, and non-stop action. While the cast did have scripts in their hand throughout the performance, they were hardly noticeable. With other extensive productions this past school year, it is hard to wrap your head around how the cast had time for such an exhilarating performance.

When *She Kills Monsters* was first performed in 2011, it quickly spread around high schools throughout Canada and the USA. Its popularity even prompted the writer to pen a Young Adventurer version of the script, toning down the language and subject matter. Some high school performances of the play have been cancelled, deeming the play inappropriate for school audiences. These cancellations have occurred as recently as 2021 in Ohio and in 2024 in Wisconsin.

The play showcases characters with varying sexual orientations and gender identities. While present, this diversity is not the sole focus of the piece. The loving connection between Agnes and her sister Tilly leads the plot.

While goofy and full of references to Dungeons and Dragons, the play continues to resonate with younger audiences and anyone that is a nerd at heart. Ultimately, the play is successful in sharing a message of acceptance, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.

After the stellar performance, guests were invited to a coffee house event in the cafeteria where refreshments and snacks were served.

Haliburton Highlands Secondary School students and students from the Virtual Learning Centre performed Qui Nguyen's *She Kills Monsters* as part of Pride Week for the TLDSB. Students from all across the region were invited to the event. The event was packed with students, staff members, supportive families, and community members. /THOMAS SMITH staff

Pride at Hal High

The students at Haliburton Highlands Secondary School wrapped up their annual Pride Week with a Colour Run, where students were given a white t-shirt, and an opportunity to decorate with paints and powders for pops of colour. The day was filled with fun and festivities, as students and staff celebrated Pride together. /EMILY STONEHOUSE staff

As a part of Pride Week at the high school, students spent an afternoon outside in the sun, playing games and celebrating Pride.

Committee members from Pride in the Highlands were at the annual Hal High Colour Run to support the students.

United Church celebrates 100 years: Rev. Max Ward reflects

THOMAS SMITH

Journalist

The Highlands Hills United Church sits proudly atop of Newcastle Street in Minden, and Reverend Max Ward has made an effort to welcome everyone into the church over the years. /FILE

Max Ward has been a Minister with the United Church of Canada for over 20 years. There have been a lot of changes to the church in that time

"It's hard to think of the church as only 100 because it took the United Churches a long time to bring it together," said Ward. "The United Church is something pretty unique to Canada and I'm proud to be a part of it."

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, members of the church's delegation tried Zoom out for the first time to attend mass. Ward says that many of his congregation have stuck with the service. He estimates that one third of their entire congregation meets through Zoom every single Sunday.

"As soon as we couldn't meet here anymore, we thought, okay, we have got to get livestreaming," said Ward. "We did that and have maintained that, whereas a lot of other churches that tried to use technology during [the COVID-19 pandemic] have gone back."

Ward says that digital attendees choose Zoom due to mobility issues, health concerns, and moving away from the county.

"If people do not have a ride, they can still join us virtually," said Ward.

Since beginning his journey with the United Church in 1999, Ward has seen many changes within the church. The biggest changes include its demographics and the affirming process.

"The makeup of the congregation has changed over the years. There has been a long period of decline since the 60s. It is getting to be a critical stage for many churches," said Ward. "We realized that in this area, it was getting to be critical and we made steps over the last decade to amalgamate and downsize to meet the capacity of the congregation we have."

Downsizing of the United Church's properties included selling the Maple Lake United Church in 2024.

Affirming is the official certification of United churches to welcome 2SLGBTQIA+ visitors. Around 1982, Affirm was established to work towards full inclusion of all gender identities and sexual orientations. As an independent, peer-lead movement, Affirm works closely with the United Church of Canada to provide awareness education, taking action towards ending discrimination of people in the United church and society, and supporting everyone of all gender identities and sexual orientations with finding support in both the church and their communities.

"The program encourages all United Church bodies, and other Christian traditions, to study and discern what it means to be publicly welcoming and inclusive in their context," writes Affirm.

In order for a church to officially affirm, the congregation must take several actions. These steps include studying and reflecting on gender identities, expression, and sexual orientation, making a welcoming statement, changing key policies and creating new ones if needed, and committing themselves to work for justice and inclusion within their community of faith.

Ward says that the Highland Hills congregation is currently working on becoming officially affirmed, but is unsure when they will receive the official status.

"We are definitely striving to be that church that is welcoming to all people," said Ward.

From May 23 to 24, Ward attended the East Central Ontario Regional Council's Spring AGM. Held at St. Paul's United Church in Bowmanville, a national minister presented to the ministry, saying that congregations of churches will decline for ten years.

"That was kind of alarming and upsetting," said Ward. "At the end, there was a discussion on what some churches are doing to reverse the decline."

Some of the efforts discussed included being in touch with the community through identifying the needs that the church can help meet and become welcoming and inclusive. Ward says that due to a variety of reasons, the children and grandchildren of his congregation do not seem to be coming to church. To increase attendance, the church attempted to create a carpooling program, but was discontinued due to a lack of use.

Through utilizing livestreaming services such as Zoom, Ward says that people can make connections with people they likely would not have sat beside, not need to travel, and have time to chat and ask questions with other members of the congregation. After his service, Ward sticks around to chat with the congregation connecting through Zoom. Recently, Minden's United Church also renovated their parking lot to improve accessibility of the building.

Hosting a number of events throughout the year such as pie making workshops and concerts, the Highland Hills United Church strives to maintain its importance to Minden, and throughout the county.

"When the Second World War was over there were a lot of United Churches that were bursting with huge Sunday schools. At that time, they were building two churches per week in the 60s," said Ward. "Due to social factors, more women started working and they couldn't be home as much and help the church with volunteering, and so on."

As supervising minister, Ward has had the opportunity to train the next generation of reverends within the United Church of Canada. Instructed offsite, Ward's first student, Daniel McDonald, now has his own congregation in Lunenburg, Nova Scotia.

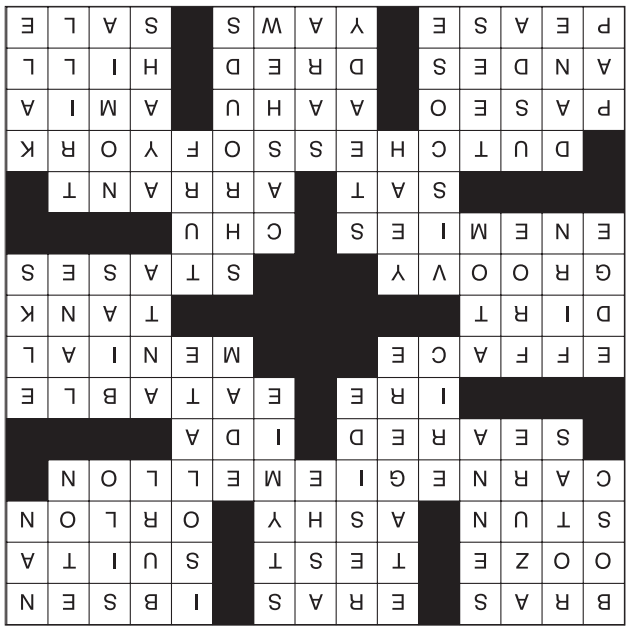
On Sunday, June 8, the Highland Hills United Church tuned in to The Centennial Worship, streamed from Gower St. United Church in St. John's Newfoundland. On Tuesday, June 10, the Highland Hills United Church celebrated their centennial with a 100th Anniversary Tea to honour the momentous milestone. All were welcome to attend, with visitors viewing the historical photos on display throughout the church.

On Sunday, June 15, there will be a joint worship service at 9:30 a.m. in the sanctuary in celebration of the centennial. Former Moderator of the United Church, Mardi Tindal will be guest speaking at the event.

With a small staff team, the Highland Hills United Church is grateful for their team of volunteers.

"We rely on volunteers to keep the church going, "said Ward. Volunteer duties include pastoral care, worship committees, outreach, treasurer and beyond.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS



SUDOKU SOLUTION

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4	8	7	6	1	9	3	2	5
1	9	6	3	2	5	8	7	4
9	2	4	1	6	3	7	5	8
8	6	3	5	7	4	9	1	2
7	5	1	9	8	2	6	4	3

Take me out to the ball game

The Minden Minor Baseball League started their season on Monday, June 2, welcoming kids from all across the county. Organizers Tammy and Craig Smith say that all coaching positions have been filled, and they are excited for this year's baseball season. /THOMAS SMITH staff

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Water Ambassadors Canada

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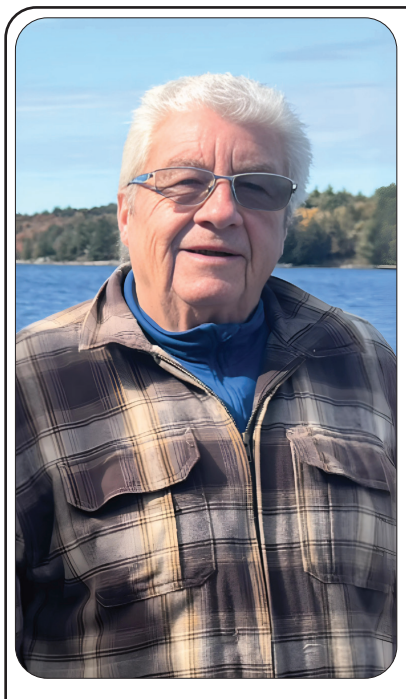

David Mahlon Beach

Resident of Haliburton

It is with deep sadness that we announce the sudden passing of David, at home on June 3rd at the age of 77. He is predeceased by his beloved wife, Shelley. He leaves behind his adoring children, Graham (Meredith) and Lindsay (Brian), and his grandchildren, Jeremy and Atia. He will be greatly missed by his sister, Nancy, and his nieces and nephews. Dave had wonderful friends on Kennisis Lake who shared many of his favourite pastimes, snowmobiling, golf, pool, poker, and happy hours.

Dave and Shelley moved full-time to their cottage on Kennisis Lake in 2008, having previously lived in Pickering, Barrie, Lindsay, Kitchener, Thunder Bay, and Midland, Ontario. He was the unofficial mayor of his road since retiring from being a sales manager at Kanaflex. During his sales career, he also worked for Honda, Bombardier, and Kawasaki. He travelled frequently during his working life, and the cottage was where Dave loved to be most in the world. He enjoyed puttering around the property and his garage. Dave was larger than life. He will be remembered for his sense of humour and big laugh to match. Dad, we hope you're enjoying some of your favourite things: a stiff rum and Diet Pepsi (with lots of ice), sausages cooked on the BBQ, and breakfast of bacon and eggs.

Memorial Service

Friends are invited to call at the **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME**, 13523 Hwy. #118 Haliburton, Ontario K0M 1S0 (705) 457-9209 for a service in David's memory on Saturday, June 14, 2025, beginning at 12:00 p.m. (Noon). As an expression of sympathy, donations in David's memory can be made to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation.

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Grenville "Beau" Bird

Resident of Haliburton

Peacefully surrounded by his family at Haliburton Hospital on Thursday afternoon, June 5, 2025, in his 89th year. Beloved husband of Verna Hutchings-Bird (nee Smith). Predeceased by his first wife, Marylou. Loving father of Penny (Alan), Jim (Heather), Randy (Angela), Steve (Lisa), Brenda (John), and Harry (Bea). Fondly remembered by his grandchildren, his great-grandchildren. Dear brother of Bob, Erma, Linda, Sherry, and Judy (Mark). Also lovingly remembered by son-in-law Steve and many nieces and nephews. Predeceased by his daughter Barb (2025), his brother Jack, Glen, and Earl. Beau enjoyed camping, fishing, hunting, his tractor, and most of all his family.

Visitation & Memorial Service

Friends and family are invited to call at the **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME**, 13523 Hwy. #118, Haliburton, Ontario (705) 457-9209 on Wednesday, June 11, 2025 from 6 - 8 p.m. A Memorial Service will be held in the Chapel at 12 (Noon) on Thursday afternoon, June 12, 2025. Interment later Evergreen Cemetery, Haliburton. As an expression of sympathy, donations to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services would be appreciated by the family.

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Minden cuts ambulance service

by Russ Duhaime

The future status of the Haliburton County Ambulance Service is in question now that Minden has decided to relinquish control.

"It's up in the air until we meet with the municipality," said Rick Armstrong, Regional Manager of Emergency Health Services. Any number of changes to the service may result if the Ministry of Health is unable to iron out an agreement that will satisfy Minden's concerns.

The ambulance service is currently managed by the municipality. However, tightened purse strings at the ministry level are making it impossible for Minden to continue to provide the present level of service without incurring a debt.

Council notified the ministry at the end of April that it wishes to relinquish control. However, council is still awaiting a reply from Assistant Deputy Minister Michael Ennis regarding a meeting to discuss the issue.

In a press release issued last week, Minden Council says that operation of the service has become extremely difficult and demanding, particularly in these times of fiscal restraint. "By relinquishing our responsibilities for the operation of the ambulance service, we are confident that we will continue to be in a position to give proper focus and attention to the other important matters we must deal with."

Armstrong would not speculate on what might happen once management duties are transferred from the municipality. He expects a meeting will be arranged soon, when the ministry will try to resolve the problems so Minden can continue to manage the service.

Ironing out the problems, though, may not be an easy task. According to Minden Reeve Bern Berry, the funding provided by the ministry is inadequate. The municipality has been instructed to operate the service with a one per cent increase. To accomplish this, the ministry has advised that "innovative and imaginative" methods be employed, said Berry.

Faced with such a small budget increase, the reeve fears that Minden ratepayers would end up picking up the shortfall. The ambulance service in Toronto is "heavily subsidized" by the city, says Berry, "and It seems that we were going in that direction."

Berry says it's not fair to tax Minden residents for a county-wide service that is supposed to be funded by the province.

If no agreement can be reached, management of the service can take on a variety of forms. The options include alignment with another service, management by the ministry or management by a private manager. Alternately, an interim manager could be considered, said Armstrong.

"This was not an easy decision," said Berry. However, it was taking up more and more of the time of council and the township's administrative staff. He said the possibility of giving up control has been considered a number of times in the past. In fact, Berry says it was addressed in each of his three terms on Minden Council and the decisions to continue at the time were never unanimous.

Berry believes there are advantages to having the service managed by the municipality. "You're closer to what happens, know what is needed and can hire local people as much as possible. The advantages of hiring local people are that they are available for emergency calls and they know the county, which is important for optimum response times.

Berry said he does not know how council's decision will affect the service. However, he said council is willing to work with the ministry to make the transition as smooth as possible.

Put it Out
The kids at CHACE Place in Minden learned all about the dangers of forest fires and a bit about how Ministry of Natural Resources Firefighters put them out when staff from the Haliburton fire centre visited last week. Learning to use a portable pump was just part of the fun. The main attraction was the presence of Smokey The Bear (see page 5 for a photo).

Minden council's budget increases 2.2 per cent

by Russ Duhaime

Minden council has managed to "hold the line" with their 1993 budget which shows a municipal tax increase of just 2.2 per cent.

Minden ratepayers will be paying 4.9 per cent more in taxes once the county and education taxes are rolled in.

While presenting the new budget Thursday, Finance Committee chairman Jerry Rome expressed his appreciation for the work done by the various departments on their budget requirements. He said everyone is very optimistic the budget is workable. He said everyone is understanding of the need for restraint, and although there are few major projects slated for the year, there will be no staff cuts.

"We wish to express our thanks to all municipal staff and department manager, who not only provided AHM with excellent results for 1991, but also at the request of council, assisted in the presentation of 'hold the line, but realistic' departmental budgets for 1992."

To establish the overall tax rates, county and education taxes are combined with the municipal levy. For Minden, the county mill rate is dropping by 1.6 per cent, the education levy is rising by 7.8 per cent and the municipal levy is up 2.2 per cent for an overall tax hike of 4.9 per cent.

The education levy accounts for 58.5 per cent of the tax bills while the county takes 10.9 per cent and the municipality gets 30.6 per cent.

The only project of note to be undertaken this year is for the construction of a new sand dome for the roads department sand and salt. The cost of this project will be $167,000 of which 50 per cent will be covered by a Ministry of Transportation supplementary grant.

Earlier in Thursday's meeting council members expressed their surprise that the ministry's grant for this project was approved. Rome said the dome will be extremely beneficial environmentally because it will reduce the amount of salt escaping from the site. He said it will also allow roads employees more flexibility in scheduling their time to work at the yard.

Rome also made note of a concession made by roads department employees in helping to keep labour costs to a minimum. He said they voluntarily agreed to accept time off in lieu of overtime, rather than taking overtime pay. Rome said this translates into a big savings for the department and the municipality.

While there are few new projects on the go, neither will there be any cutbacks in the level of road maintenance in the municipality. The current standard of road maintenance has been built

(more on page 3)

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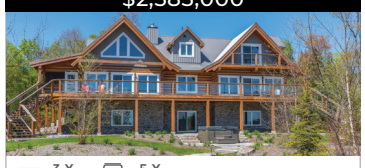
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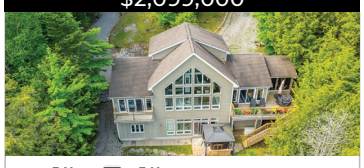
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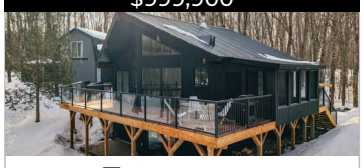
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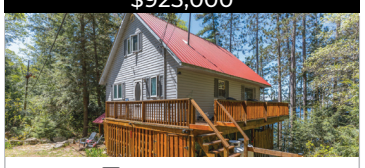
KENNISIS LAKE
$925,000

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HALIBURTON LAKE
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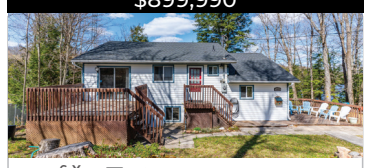
$899,990

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NEGAUNEE LAKE
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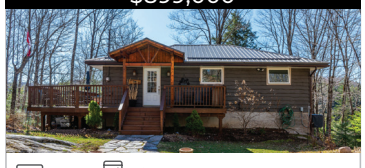
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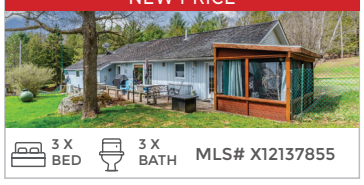
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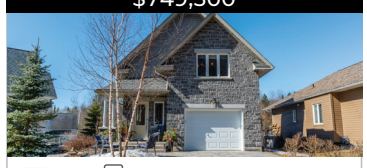
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WILBERMERE LAKE
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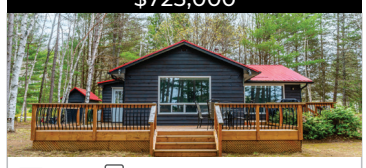
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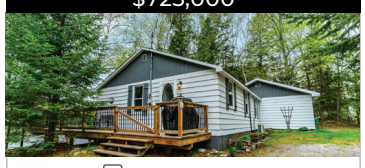
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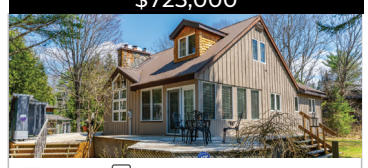
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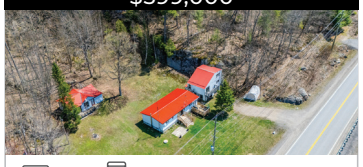
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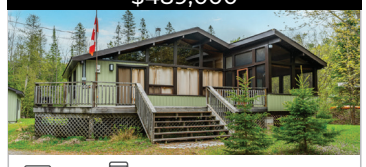
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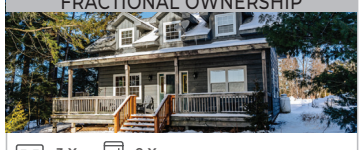
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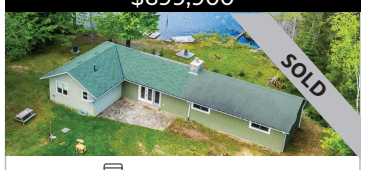

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GLAMOR LAKE
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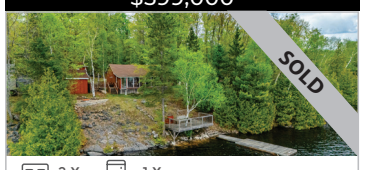

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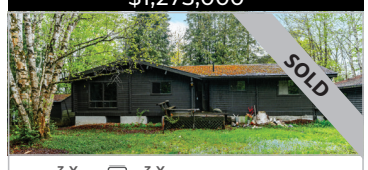

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